



ourMidland.com
from the Midland Daily News

11/25/2004

High school students create remembrance

Kris Winterton , Midland Daily News

Michigan's Adoption Day on Wednesday was already a special day for a number of families, but Margie Kozuch wanted to make it even more special.

She did that by asking her friend Maryann Grant to come up with a unique type of gift for Family Independence Agency personnel to present to judges and others involved in Adoption Day. Kozuch is the adoption supervisor for five adoption specialists who cover 12 counties in southwestern Michigan.

"I wanted to give each judge a little memento," Kozuch said. "I wanted it to have a symbolic meaning of the family connection. Maryann is the creative one, and she thought of having her students make clay coasters with a tree motif on them."

Grant teaches art and humanities at H.H. Dow High School and created a design for the coasters, which students in her three art classes made. All together, they produced more than 90 coasters -- 30 more than Kozuch originally requested. They were given to the judges involved in adoptions in 23 counties, head social workers and adoptive families.

Adoption Day has become an annual event throughout Michigan. Forty-one courts in 43 Michigan counties conducted adoptions Wednesday.

"I decided to open the project to all three classes," Grant said. "It was an optional project, but just about everybody made one, and some students made more than one. The kids did a really great job on them."

Grant had her students start on the project weeks ago, because the clay coasters had to be dried and fired to bisqueware stage and then have color added to them. Each one has cork backing to protect the table, and a label with information about the student who made it.

The tree on each coaster represents the family tree, Kozuch said; roots are the foundation of the family and branches represent family members. Each tree has just one leaf on it, to symbolize the adopted child.

"The neat thing is, because the students each designed their own, every coaster is unique, like each child," Kozuch said. "I think they're gorgeous -- creative and very artistic."

Kozuch went to Dow High and spoke to Grant's art students, where she discussed the adoption process and the need for more adoptive families.

"I received good questions from the students about adoption," Kozuch said. "I think there was a good educational component to this project."

Advertisement

**THE ORIGINAL.
THE ONE.
BLUE.**

▶ GET BLUE®

**0% INTRO
APR
FOR SIX MONTHS
NO ANNUAL FEE**

APPLY NOW

AMERICAN EXPRESS

Professional Web Site Services
Design, Development, Hosting, Maintenance

©Midland Daily News 2004